

A corpus-driven study on the representation of marriage between 1950s and 2000s in COHA

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Yeeun Lim. 2016. A corpus-driven study on the representation of marriage between 1950s and 2000s in COHA. *SNU Working Papers in English Linguistics and Language 14*, 103-123. This paper investigates how marriage is represented in the 1950s and the 2000s respectively and how the perception of it has changed between the two periods over time through the Corpus of Historical American English (COHA). Adjective collocates of *marriage* were retrieved for investigating the representation, and both adjective and noun collocates were extracted for studying the perception changes. By exploring those collocates of *marriage* in the concordance lines, the analysis discussed the way of people in the West viewing marriage in two ways: *personal* and *social*. In terms of sketching the image of the state of marriage, there were dichotomic modifiers. Moreover, it seemed that marriage is not only a personal affair but also it needs to be socially recognized. In case of attention shifts of marriage between the two periods, it appeared more to be a social issue due to the controversy of homosexual marriage along with other social problems. (Seoul National University)

Keywords: representation of marriage, collocates, corpus-based study, perception of marriage, discourse analysis, corpus linguistics

1. Introduction

Discourse Analysis (DA) is an umbrella term which involves a variety of approaches to actual instances of communicative action in the medium of language (Johnston 2008). Concerning Corpus linguistics (CL), it is a methodology, consisting of a large number of related methods which can be used by scholars of many different theoretical learnings (Lindquist 2009). As an interdisciplinary approach, DA has been supported with CL in terms of presenting plenty of empirical and quantitative evidence since DA came under criticism of dealing with small-scale subjectively selected data (Lee 2016).

According to the dictionary definition, marriage is “the legally or

formally recognized union of two people as partners in a personal relationship”. Moreover, marriage has personal, social, legal, religious, emotional, financial, and many other characteristics. The paper more likely focuses on personal and social aspects of marriage among them, which means that understanding of it would never be separated from that of the personal and social contexts where it occurs (Clulow 1990). In the old days, people tried to maintain their marriage lives, and that was taken for granted. However, the trend or the characteristics of marriage has changed over time. It is true that a majority of people, nowadays, still stick to that thought while some people increasingly do not agree with it. It is apparent that women have gained access to male domains of employment since World War II, which caused a vast number of couples to get divorced or let adults be single. In fact, the divorce rate doubled from 11 to 23 divorces per 1,000 married women between 1950 and 1990 at the same time the marriage declined (Greenwood & Guner 2009). In addition to this kind of changes, issues about same-sex marriage have recently been brought about in line with other social matters such as abortion.

This paper explores how marriage is represented and how its perception has changed between the two periods, 1950s and 2000s in COHA (<http://www.corpus.byu.edu/coha>). Beforehand, this present paper clearly demonstrates that the frame and approach of Lee’s (2016) were adopted. In the first place, the list of adjective collocates of *marriage* both for the two periods was investigated, and the concordance lines were examined to illustrate the representation of marriage. Secondly, the collocates which appear exclusively in either period were also studied in order to find out the different perception or the change of perception between the two periods. By comparing the collocates shown up in those periods, the aims of this paper seem likely to be achieved.

2. Previous Literature

There have been many attempts to analyze discourse by providing evidence from corpus-based or corpus-driven data. In particular, studies with respect to corpus-driven discourse analysis of representation were those of Cheng and Lam (2013) and Lee (2016).

Cheng and Lam (2013) investigated the west's recent opinions concerning Hong Kong by comparing it with that in 1997. This article utilized two corpus linguistic software, ConcGram and Wmatrix, and explored a wide variety of Western media discourse of Hong Kong. The result revealed that there have been changes in terms of perceptions and also the West's (re-) positioning towards the city and China from the moment of the handover. In the first period, which is 1997, the West showed negative perspectives with regard to political issues, and it mostly concentrated on the general business or economic-related situations of Hong Kong. However, it has recently started to emphasize on political issues and views in the newly politicalized Hong Kong. Cheng and Lam pointed out that these findings showed a new representation of Hong Kong in the eyes of the West. Moreover, they gave an opportunity to reexamine the social relations between the West and China.

Lee (2016) studied collocates of Korea and Korean to see the representation of Korea and how it has changed over time between 1960s and 2000s through Corpus of Historical American English (COHA). The top collocates were mostly about the territory itself, the war, and ideologies. The findings of this paper indicated that the image of Korea in 1960s was concerned with a country which suffered from a tragic war, narrowly survived it, and was attempting to obtain its own authority. On the other hand, the second period, which is 2000s showed that North Korea was the issue and the focus. During that period, North Korea was described as a threat to the world in accordance with the appearing collocates. In addition, South Korea gained attention with respect to the great economic growth and education, which was perceived positively. Overall, the article ended up in saying that the shift of attention was from South Korea to North Korea, and they are usually connected with other

countries in terms of their relationships with the US since the two Koreas are in a special state within themselves and with the US.

3. Data and Methodology

The present paper adopted the frame of Lee’s (2016). To see the representation and perception changes of marriage through the collocates of the word *marriage*, some specific tools and functions such as *list*, *chart*, and *collocates* were used in COHA. The total frequency of *marriage* is 34,067. As mentioned above, collocates appearing in the two periods, 1950s and 2000s were examined. The reasons for selecting these two periods among many others are listed as follows. First of all, half a century seems to be sufficient to show changes in perception. Secondly, it was said that some characteristics of marriage have changed since World War II which ended in 1945; therefore, it would be reasonable to compare collocates between the 1950s and the 2000s.

Figure 1. Total Frequency Distribution of *Marriage* in COHA

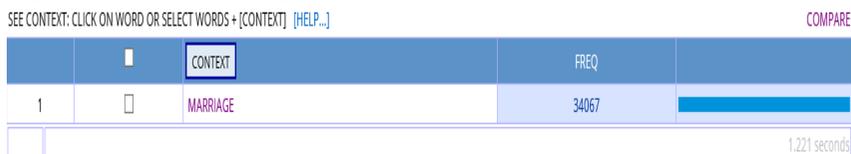
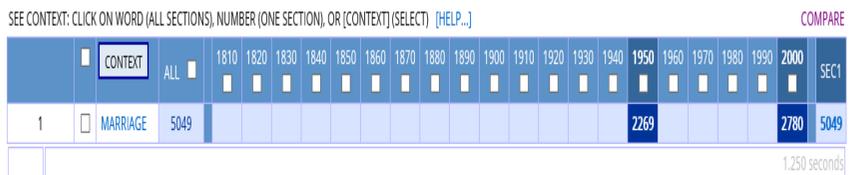


Figure 2. Frequency Distribution of *Marriage* in the 1950s and 2000s in COHA



Adjective collocates of *marriage* were extracted with the default window

span of four words, and those that were related to personal and social contexts in the top 100 frequent collocates were explored. Words which were not relevant to these two contexts such as *other*, *possible*, etc. were manually excluded. Moreover, *fiction* was also ruled out among four sections in the search tool. Then, the remaining collocates were sorted out into two different categories which are *personal* and *social* to investigate the representation of marriage. In addition, exclusively used collocates in either period were also examined through the function of comparison. Although most of them were socially related, the extracted collocates were also divided into two sections: *personal* and *social*.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Representation of Marriage in the 1950s and 2000s

Some common adjective collocates which show up in both periods and have high frequencies were collected. Then, the 14 adjective collocates of *marriage* that were refined to be categorized into the specific categories were listed in the table as follows. Through this study, the USA's or Americans' representation of marriage could be examined.

Table 1. Common Adjective Collocates of *Marriage* in the 1950s and 2000s

Collocates	Frequencies in 1950s	Frequencies in 2000s
happy	34	25
successful	29	5
good	23	27
early	20	13
young	18	10
unhappy	15	6
new	14	12

modern	11	3
previous	10	20
long	9	9
best	9	5
legal	8	16
great	4	11
interracial	3	5

Table 2. Classification of the Common Adjective Collocates of *Marriage* in the 1950s and 2000s

Category	Collocates
<i>personal</i>	happy, successful, good, early, young, unhappy, new, previous, long, best, great
<i>social</i>	(young), modern, legal, interracial

Most of the collocates were classified into the *personal* section, and only the three collocates were involved in the *social* category. In the first place, the concordance lines of the collocates in the category *personal* were examined. The collocate *happy* was used to refer to the state of marriage in the two periods. It seems that marriage is supposed to be or should be a happy thing as shown in (1).

- (1) a. The two people who accomplish between them a successful and happy marriage not only should be congratulated but praised and even rewarded by a grateful public. (1950/MAG/GoodHouse)
- b. In America a happy marriage is every individual's birthright. We hunger after it ourselves, ... (2000/MAG/AmHeritage)

From a common-sense standpoint, marriage should be successful or in other words, it would be great to have successful marriage. Likewise, in the 1950s, successful marriage appears to be ideal for couples, and the

collocate *successful* depicted marriage in terms of the states. However, there was only one context denoting a successful marital condition while others were not actually related to marriage itself presented as in (2).

- (2) a. Romantic love is not a new invention, and it is a powerful factor in successful marriage. (1950/MAG/SatEvePost)
b. ... their clasped hands resting close to each other's bodies suggest intimacy and the triumph of a successful marriage. (2007/MAG/AmerArtist)

Again, here appears a positive collocate, *good*. Through the concordance lines, it can be learned that people have a tendency to make their marriage a good one. There are some conditions to get and sustain a good marriage life such as appearances, sharing a certain level of mental and physical feelings, which was quoted as in (3)

- (3) a. On her appearance still depends in large measure her chance for a good marriage and children, for a continuing sex life, for a high income. (1958/MAG/Atlantic)
b. Scientists have found ... reach out and touch someone, endorphin levels rise for both of you, giving you a sense of comfort and wellbeing. Sound like a recipe for good marriage? (2001/MAG/Cosmopolitan)

When it comes to the collocate *early*, the representation of marriage was not only about getting married at an early age, but also about early days of marriage. In the 1950s, people seemed to start a marriage life early, and girls needed to learn how to cook for their husbands and the family. This still can be true and mandatory in several countries and to some individuals. In other words, early marriage was taken for granted and getting married at an early age seemed neutral in some ways before. In the 2000s, there was not any context about early marriage but rather

about early days of marriage shown in the concordance lines (4).

- (4) a. ... It was a fine art which every well-educated girl had to master before her early marriage, and thereafter to practise constantly, either in person or ... (1953/NF/EnglishHousewife)
- b. Amis was more reluctant toward his role as a parent, however. Early in their marriage the young couple had one child, a girl who died three weeks after birth. (2001/NEWS/Huston)

In the 1950s, the collocate *young* occurred to ascribe marriage lives which people had at a young age, and this can be considered personal. As mentioned earlier, it appeared neutral in that period. However, getting married when they were young was viewed in a negative manner in the 2000s in that they were forced to have those lives in some cultures. In addition, this is no longer a personal thing, but a social issue juxtaposing other problems such as forced labor and prostitution. The examples concerning the two aspects were presented as in (5).

- (5) a. Some of the social problems for the personnel, for instance, such as the marriage prospects for young women employees in regions where there may be shortages of eligible men. (1954/MAG/Harpers)
- b. In contrast, there are many parts of the world where girls still can't go to school; are forced into labor, prostitution, or marriage as young teenagers ... (2008/NF/SexualParadoxMen)

Similar to the collocate *happy*, *successful*, and *good*, the word *unhappy* also indicated the state of one's marriage. In this case, however, the adjective collocate *unhappy* connotes a negative meaning, so marriage was displayed from the opposite perspective compared to the ones above,

quoted as in (6). One thing that can be noticed about the representation of marriage is that marriage was dichotomically viewed: *happy* or *unhappy*. Other words such as *bad*, *unsuccessful*, or *old* were not listed on the table due to low frequencies, but they also signify binary characteristics from one extreme to another.

- (6) a. A broken engagement usually means emotional upsets for both parties, but this is a much lower price to pay than years of maladjustment in an unhappy marriage. (1952/MAG/MarriageFamily)
b. She lost weight, left an unhappy marriage, is raising six boys alone, and is happily considering life with a much younger man. (2005/MAG/Essence)

For the collocate *new*, marriage was represented as something that allows new experiences or new roles in the 1950s whereas *new* and *marriage* did not show any particular relations in the 2000s. (7a) portrays that something different occurred in marriage starting from World War II, and (7b) indicates that couples had troubles adjusting themselves to new situations that they needed to get confronted to in their marriage lives. In this circumstance, marriage may be regarded as personal.

- (7) a. SINCE WORLD WAR II a new kind of marriage has developed in America, a marriage with greater frankness, greater articulateness, greater sharing than any we have known before in this country. Lo an early marriage, focused on having children in comradeship. (1953/MAG/Nation)
b. This chapter is concerned with the problems of adjustments of husbands and wives: (1) their adjustments to the new experience of marriage; (2) their adjustments in the different areas of marriage; (3) the question of the greater adjustment made by husband or wife and (4) the effect of length of time

married upon the process of adjustment. (1953/NF/
EngagementMarriage)

The collocate *previous* was different from the synonym *early* in terms of meanings and contexts. It was used to illustrate marriage that was already over, which means divorce. Most of the concordance lines containing the word *previous* also expressed things about children who were born in their parents' broken marriage, presented as in (8).

- (8) a. She left three children, one by her previous marriage. Fonda last December authorized a statement that ... (1950/NEWS/Chicago)
- b. In 2003 the Wagoners, parents to three girls from Nina's previous marriage, read about PGD on the Internet and decided to try for a boy. (2004/MAG/People)

The usage of *long* paralleled with *marriage* was not in fact related to marriage itself, but the collocate was about couples having long relationships or being acquaintances for a long time before they got married. Furthermore, *long* frequently appeared in the *fiction* section in the 2000s, so there were not so many things to be discussed with the collocate *long* in this period.

In case of the collocate *best*, it was used to present the states of marriage and the attitude toward being engaged in marriage. To elaborate this, people prepared necessary things for their wedding ceremony and marriage on their best and in a perfect fashion. This seems likely because they thought marriage is special in their lives and it might be the only time they had ever had. All these were considered *personal* and they were illustrated in (9) and (10).

- (9) a. ... I don't think he has because we went together so long before marriage. WOMAN. We haven't had much trouble

because we had known one another since we were four years old. (1953/MAG/EngagementMarriage)

b. At 88 years old, I have learned in my long marriage and even longer life that worrying is an exercise in futility and does not change a thing. (2006/MAG/Time)

(10) a. I am convinced, " she said in a later speech, " that a liberal arts college, given an intelligent girl, is the best possible preparation for marriage. " (1951/MAG/Harpers)

b. That's why I tell patients like Carla that bad patches, as painful and threatening as they are, really do carry with them a chance for increased intimacy-and the very best years of a marriage. (2006/MAG/GoodHouse)

With the collocate *great*, there were descriptions about great times of marriage rather than the marriage itself. As discussed with the collocates that appeared previously, *great* was also one of the dichotomic views, which is positive.

(11) a. We felt that we had no sex adjustment. We were very happy in our sex life. We feel we have grown happier. We are attuned to each other. It is a great part of marriage. (1953/NF/EngagementMarriage)

b. " On her fiery husband " Mark and I have a great marriage, and a great life together. It's not boring, and it never has been. (2002/MAG/GoodHouse)

It would seem to be a snap judgement to say that the collocate *modern* should be classified into *social*. However, the contexts where *modern* appeared sketched marriage as a different thing in comparison to the previous one. It can be implied that something regarding marriage such as a marriageable age, images of men and women for marriage, complex

cultural aspects, etc. could have been changed or developed. The relevant concordance lines were shown below as in (12).

- (12) a. Numerous courses in sociology, psychology, the arts, and religion are augmented by specific courses dealing objectively with the problems of marriage in modern society. (1951/MAG/GoodHouse)
- b. Modern marriage requires much more than love. It requires a new awareness of the effects of life's complexities on couplehood and the development of interpersonal skills that were never needed or taught to us by our forebears. (2004/MAG/PsychToday)

Marriage was collocated also with the word *legal*. Throughout the two periods, this indicated that marriage is not only a personal affair but also socially related. It is a convention that needs to be legally approved and recognized. However, there were some occurring discussions concerning legally marriageable ages and legalization of same-sex marriage in the 2000s. Some changes in the representation of marriage were shown, and they were affecting other social issues, discussed in the next section. The quotes containing *legal* can be seen in (13).

- (13) a. Some couples go through later religious ceremonies of one kind or another, but so far as the United States consulate and the matter-of-fact Japanese authorities are concerned, the marriage is legal the moment the man swears he legally can be married. (1952/MAG/SatEvePost)
- b. The court ruled on Dec. 20 that the Legislature must craft a new law to give same-sex couples the legal benefits of marriage. (2000/MAG/USAToday)

The last word examined was *interracial*. From the word, it can be known

that it was connected with social issues. Since long ago, marrying different races have been avoided or denounced by a majority of people. It is true that this problem is getting better and social perception of interracial marriage has been changing. However, it is still a hot-red issue, shown as in (14).

- (14) a. And they tossed heaps of coins and bills into cardboard drums set up at the exits. Literature was passed out that included copies of a 'purported speech' of a leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People advocating interracial marriage. (1956/NEWS/NYT-Reg)
- b. 20 Some raceologists, however, have posited that mulattoes are inferior to both "pure" whites and "pure" blacks. Defenders of anti-miscegenation laws pointed to the alleged inferiority of mulattoes as basis for prohibiting interracial marriage. (2008/NF/SelloutPolitics)

4.2 Perception Changes Concerning Marriage through the 1950s and 2000s

In this section, collocates which appeared exclusively in either period were examined. 16 collocates were extracted in accordance with frequencies among many, and again they were classified into the two categories, *personal* and *social*. One thing that gained attention was that there were much more collocates related to social issues than to personal things. With these collocates, how the perception in marriage has changed between the 1950s and 2000s could be explored.

Table 3. Exclusive Collocates of *Marriage* Either in the 1950s or 2000s

Collocates	Frequencies in 1950s	Frequencies in 2000s
gay	0	81

same-sex	0	37
arranged	0	21
bad	0	14
abortion	0	13
traditional	0	12
amendment	0	11
constitutional	0	10
covenant	0	10
failed	0	9
disastrous	0	8
heterosexual	0	7
adjustment(s)	37	1
failure	16	3
adaptability	13	0
engagement	11	0

Table 4. Classification of the Exclusive Collocates of *Marriage* in the 1950s and 2000s

Category	Collocates
<i>personal</i>	arranged, bad, failed, disastrous, adaptability, engagement, adjustment(s)
<i>social</i>	gay, same-sex, abortion, traditional, amendment, constitutional, covenant, heterosexual

In the first place, social categories will be examined. The first collocates to be covered, which looks synonymous were *gay*, *same-sax*, and *heterosexual*. They appeared only in the 2000s, and showed very high frequencies: 81, 37, 7 respectively. Moreover, they were involved in a hot social issue concerning marrying a same-sex partner or legalization of homosexual marriage, shown in (15).

- (15) a. Amy Desai, a policy analyst for the conservative group Focus on the Family, said proponents of gay marriage underestimate the grassroots opposition to their cause. (2001/NEWS/AP)
- b. ...is that pension law, health insurance law, real estate law, partnership law, inheritance law, life insurance law, tax law and divorce law will all be upset by legal acceptance of same-sex marriage. (2004/NEWS/Denver)
- c. At their meeting, the Catholic bishops of the United States took an important first step to revitalize marriage. But they must move from simply opposing gay marriage to fighting for the reform of heterosexual marriage, which affects millions of families. (2004/NEWS/America)

It is apparent that the attention to marriage has changed from relationship between the opposite sexes to that of the same sexes. Moreover, this issue is not only personal but more to social since the society and people are divided in terms of accepting and denying homosexual relations. As quoted in (15b), legal acceptance of same-sex marriage seems to be the hottest topic even setting aside other life-related laws. The attention to marriage is on the rise along with another serious social issue, abortion. In the case of (16b) mentioning *the Christian right's core issues*, these two problems are also related to religions.

- (16) a. ... suggests that wedge issues, which normally work to the Republicans' advantage, are not a big G.O.P. plus this time. Asked whom they trust to handle " moral-values issues such as gay marriage and abortion, " more voters chose Bush (44%) than Kerry (42%), though the difference was within the margin for error. (2004/MAG/TIME)
- b. The council displayed a chart on which it noted the number of times the president mentioned the Christian right's core

issues: marriage, o; abortion, o; stem cells, o; cloning, o; abstinence, o; and values, o. (2007/MAG/RollingStone)

Along with same-sex marriage, another collocate *traditional* appeared, which seems that *traditional* is a mutually incompatible word to others such as *homosexual* and *gay*. This gives a reason why *traditional marriage* did not occur in the corpus in the 1950s. In those previous years, some same-gender couples may have existed although they were not revealed in the world or to the people around them. Namely, it could not be imagined even in the Western countries like America that they dare to come out. However, the recent world is not trying to be bothered about a person's sexual orientation, which made different-gender marriage traditional.

- (17) a. Americans should be outraged that marriage -- traditional or same-sex -- is taking center stage at a time when: Social Security and Medicare are headed for bankruptcy... (2004/NEWS/Chicago)
- b. ... City Councilman Larry McCallon railed against San Francisco last week for sins including a lack of support for traditional marriage, family, the Bush administration and the military, if not God himself. (2006/NEWS/SanFran)

Next, both the collocates *constitutional* and *amendment* occur together with *marriage* at the same time. These collocates are concerned with the issue about same-sex marriage again. Opponents of gay marriage push ahead with having a new law to ban it and simultaneously to protect the traditional way of marrying. As mentioned above with other excerpts, there were almost zero possibilities that such collocates appeared in the 1950s.

- (18) a. In Texas, conservative legislators will try this year to make

their state the 35th to adopt a law or constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. (2001/NEWS/AP)

b. ... our nation must enact a constitutional amendment to protect marriage,' Bush said Tuesday.' (2004/NEWS/Denver)

The collocate *covenant* appeared only in the 2000s, and this can be attributed to a new law that was made in 1997. The trend of marriage in 21st century can be expressed with the phrase “Easy-in or Easy-out Marriage”. Nowadays, marriage is a so-called contract, being escaped from the traditional wedding. Couples get married easily and also get divorced with ease. However, families, particularly kids suffer from divorce, which affects the society badly. With regard to solving this problem, ‘Covenant Marriage Law¹’ was proposed and first adopted in Louisiana (Witte, 2006). This is why the collocate *covenant* can only be shown in the 2000s.

(19) a. Recently, Arizona and Louisiana instituted the option of “covenant marriage,” ... (2000/MAG/AmHeritage)

b. Clergy marry 86 percent of all couples. Perhaps pastors did not encourage couples to sign up for the Covenant Marriage. Why not? (2004/MAG/America)

It is interesting that the collocate *arranged* only occurred in the second period rather than in the first period. It is thought that arranged marriage was more prevalent in those previous years, but surprisingly it only appeared in the 2000s. Apparently, nothing can be discussed only with the quoted data; nevertheless, one thing that can be said is the awareness and perception of arranged marriage are not that bad.

¹ Couples living in Louisiana, Arizona, and Arkansas have a choice to select one of the two systems of marriage: Covenant Marriage with more stringent formation and dissolution rules or Contract Marriage with minimal formalities of formation and attendant rights to no-fault divorce (Witte 2008; pp. 595).

- (20) a. They all wanted an arranged marriage, " Barua says. # Indians say parents might not be perfect at selecting mates, but they are better at it than hormone-crazed youths. (2006/NEWS/ USAToday)
- b. Contrary to popular belief, an arranged marriage is not usually a forced marriage in which the son or daughter has no say in the decision. (2007/NEWS/Atlanta)

The next collocates to be examined are those classified into the personal category. *Bad*, *failed*, and *disastrous* modify marriage to show the state of it. It can seem strange to find negative collocates only in the 2000s. However, there are some unfavorable modifiers and descriptions regarding marriage even in the 1950s. The reason for excluding those words is merely due to the frequency which is out of the standard of classification. This is why these collocates do not reveal perception changes in terms of the state of marriage.

- (21) a. But he made a bad marriage when he sold his company in 1996, as he acknowledged in a November speech. (2002/MAG/Esquire)
- b. They will be miserable, unhappy and on their second or third failed marriage after desperately trying to find rich men who could take the place of their daddies in their lives. (2006/NEWS/Atlanta)
- c. Tarnapol's obsessive topic is his disastrous first marriage; that Roth had lived through such an experience was by then fairly common knowledge among his readers. (2001/MAG/Time)

The last collocates are *adjustment(s)*, *adaptability*, and *engagement*, which is boring and trivial. In fact, these words cannot be analyzed since

all of them are shown in one book. Thus, the point of this section is not able to be talked on with them.

- (22) a. Length of Time Required to Achieve Adjustment in Marriage," American Sociological Review... (1953/NF/Engagement Marriage)
- b. HUSBAND'S ADJUSTMENT GREATER In a very few cases the couple agree that the husband makes the major adjustments in marriage. (1953/NF/EngagementMarriage)
- c. But it also signifies her unadaptability to the situation. In modern marriage adaptability is of increasing importance. (1953/NF/EngagementMarriage)
- d. One of the two main theses of this book is that the development of well adjusted personalities makes for success in engagement and marriage. (1953/NF/EngagementMarriage)

5. Conclusion

With the help of corpus data, this paper explored the representation and the perception changes, or better to say, an attention shift of marriage. To summarize the analysis, both in the 1950s and the 2000s, marriage was considered to be the one that should be good, happy and successful, but can be the opposite at the same time. To say it concisely, the state of marriage was viewed dichotomically. Moreover, having a marriage life at an early age seemed to be natural in the first period, but the data in the second period showed that it is represented as a problem causing negative effects to the society. In the 1950s, people in the West started to regard marriage in those times as a new kind because some of its features have factually changed since World War II. Aside from these collocates, there were some other words depicting marriage as a social-

related affair, such as *legal* and *interracial*.

After the analysis of the representation of marriage, the second part of the discussion section covered attention shifts of it. More than half of the data referred to same-sex marriage which is a controversial issue until now. Whether negative or problematic situations surrounding marriage existed or not in the 1950s, marriage was not or might not be considered as a social problem, but rather as a personal affair. However, the world being affected by new generations and various kinds of people as time went by, the perception of marriage has also changed and is still changing. There are some trials to fix the marital-related situations that negatively influence the society, which can be known from the collocates like *covenant*, *constitutional*, and *amendment*. Nevertheless, there seems to be little change in terms of the state of marriage, implying that the representation of a marriage life is likely to be the same to people in both the periods.

Through the analysis, this paper was able to investigate the representation and the change of perception of marriage. It, however, left something to be desired since the perception change was not so clear. In other words, there were only a few collocates concerning it, which indicates a need of further research. In spite of the limitation, this study carried out what was to be analyzed and discussed, making it meaningful.

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